

# **Town of Lincoln**

## **Budget Board Meeting**

**March 9, 2011**

### **Present:**

**Linda Noble Mike Babbitt Hagop Jawharjian Domenic Ricci Peter  
Fucci**

**Bob Turner Paul DiDomenico Claudette Lussier Carl Brunetti Joe  
Renning**

### **Absent:**

**Greg Leonard**

### **Call To Order**

**The Meeting began at 7:35 pm.**

### **Minutes**

**The Minutes of March 2nd and March 3rd were distributed for review.**

**Bob Turner made a motion, seconded by Mike Babbitt, to accept the minutes of March 2nd as amended.**

**The minutes were approved by a vote of 8-0 with Joe Renning and Hagop Jawharjian abstaining because they were not present on March 2nd.**

**Hagop Jawharjian made a motion, seconded by Joe Renning, to**

**accept the minutes of March 3rd.**

**The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.**

### **Correspondence**

**The School Department sent a memo that they will be unable to meet with the Budget Board this week to discuss their budget, and they request that any discussion take place by written questions.**

**The Budget Board Meeting Schedule was discussed, and a meeting was added for Thursday, March 17th for which a memo will be sent out to the Town Solicitor requesting his attendance.**

**Correspondence was received from Councilman T.J. Russo regarding the resolution that changed the budget last year, and it was noted that when the resolution was written and passed there was no discussion of holding an additional Financial Town Meeting instead.**

### **Old Business**

**The Budget Board did receive the information it requested from the School Department, including worksheets with detail, 5-year Summary, and a copy of the budget with 12/31 numbers filled in.**

**However the audit is not ready yet, which is why some audited numbers are not filled in on the worksheets.**

**The delay in receiving the audit may be due to the transition to the Uniform Chart of Accounts.**

**The Budget Board questioned Energy Efficiency and whether the position is still necessary.**

**They also will review all personnel as well as compare summary to detail including grant positions.**

**There were some positions that were added to the schools after the budget was approved at the Financial Town Meeting which the Budget Board will ask about, including Vice Principals and an Overseer of Special Projects.**

**Joe Renning made a motion, seconded by Bob Turner, to move to Public Comment.**

### **Public Comment**

**Town Administrator T. Joseph Almond was present.**

**The Town Administrator noted that there was a Rhode Island Department of Education decision about Maintenance of Effort that may complicate the budget preparation and that will be discussed in executive session by both the Town Council and School Committee.**

### **Old Business Continued**

**The Budget Board split into individual groupings to analyze different parts of the School Budget separately.**

**They then reconvened the meeting as a whole.**

**The questions that were asked about the Schools' budget include the following:**

**The Total for the Superintendent's Department budget does not add up to the items within that budget, which could be a spreadsheet input error.**

**Under Curriculum, Testing Chief Academic Officer and Other Charges Chief Academic Officer were both funded at 0.**

**It was noted that this, and other Central Services, may show as 0 because they have been reallocated to the Schools to which they belong to conform to the new Uniform Chart of Accounts.**

**The Budget Board wanted to know why there were such large increases in Tuitions and what schools those tuitions are for.**

**Also, Charter Schools were requested at a \$102,000 increase and they wanted to know how many students attended charter and vocational schools last year and how many are anticipated in the coming year.**

**The Middle School's large increase in spending for a decrease in enrollment was questioned.**

**The Special Education and Self-Contained student enrollment numbers for last year are not shown in the spreadsheet**

**It was noted that Non-Instructional Services, such as Busing will now appear under Fixed Charges in the new Uniform Chart of Accounts.**

**The Budget Board would like to know what “Holding Accounts” indicates in account line names.**

**The Board will ask the School Committee if there was any information that they had when they passed their recommended budget that the Budget Board has not received that could assist their evaluation of the budget information.**

**Also, they wanted to know where the Contract Negotiation funds were going to be paid out of.**

**Adjourn**

**Joe Renning made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Domenic Ricci.**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.**